WEATHER FORECAST
Virginia—Rain, slightly colder Saturday; Sunday cloudy.
North Carolina—Rain, colder in west portion Saturday; Sunday probably rain, colder on the coast.
High tide, 1:46 a. m. and 1:51 p. m.; low tide, 7:34 a. m. and 8:05 p. m.
Sun rises, 7:16 a. m.; sun sets, 4:54 p. m.

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DOG LONE GUARD OVER $500,000 RUM CARGO ON HONDURAN SHIP

No Human Being Aboard Auxiliary Schooner When Coast Guard Boat Draws Alongside Her in Poquoson River; Liquors Seized

RAIDERS FIND EGGS SIZZLING ON STOVE

Champagne, Whisky, Gin And Alcohol Stored In Hold; Vessel Which Figured In Seizure Last May Towed To Norfolk

Bacon and eggs were sizzling in a pan on a red hot stove in her galley, a dog was running up and down the deck barking, and her hold was filled with liquors—champagne, whisky, gin and alcohol—valued at more than $500,000, but there was not a human being on board the Honduran auxiliary schooner Julito when she was boarded by crews from two Coast Guard boats in the Poquosin River, near York River, late Thursday.

The crew had apparently left the whisky-laden craft only a few minutes before the Coast Guard boats arrived. How they went or where they went the officers of the Coast Guard boats do not know. They found a hot fire in the stove in the ship's galley and on the stove was a frying pan containing bacon and eggs. The men must have left without their supper, because there were clean dishes on the table in the mess room as if they had been put in place preparatory to serving a meal.

No Sign Of Crew

Boatswain A. N. Taylor, in command of one of the Coast Guard boats, was among the boarding party that scaled the sides of the Julito. The latter vessel had hove to as if she were looking for a place to land her cargo of Christmas cheer. Boatswain Taylor said there was no sign of a human being on the schooner and he did not see anybody leave her.

He is of the opinion that the crew on the rum-laden craft must have been advised of the coming of the Coast Guard boats or otherwise they would have been seen leaving the ship and could possibly have been captured.

Samples of the Julito's cargo were brought to the custom house yesterday. It was composed of champagne, the bottles bearing Piper Heidsieck labels. There were about 100 cases of champagne; 100 cases of gin, labeled "Booth's High and Dry"; 1,500 cases of alcohol, and about 300 cases of whisky.

Judging from conditions in the hold of the ship, it appeared that several cases of alcohol had been removed. The champagne and gin were packed tight in the hold of the ship and apparently had not been molested from the time it was put on board.

Papers found on the vessel indicate that she loaded at Havana and was bound for Halifax. Just how she got in the Poquosin River is not known. She must have run the gauntlets of Coast Guard vessels off the Virginia coast.

Towed to Norfolk

After her capture the Julito was taken in custody by the Coast Guard cutter Carrabassett, which was dispatched from Norfolk to the scene of the capture. The rum-laden craft was towed to Norfolk and is now at the Coast Guard oil dock on the Berkley side of the river.

As soon as the captured craft was safely docked, she was put in custody of the United States marshal and armed men were placed aboard last night to prevent any of the Christmas cheer from coming ashore.

District Attorney Paul Kear, having nobody to prosecute for the presence of the ship or the liquor in the Poquosin, was undecided what steps will be taken. It is possible that an effort will be made to ascertain who was in command of the ship and an arrest may be made shortly.

In the event nobody can be found on whom responsibility for bringing the ship into American waters may be placed, the cargo will be seized by the Government and will either be destroyed or turned over to public hospitals for medicinal purposes.

The Julito is well known. She was captured off the Virginia coast last May and brought into Hampton Roads by the Coast Guard cutter Manning. At that time it was claimed the vessel was seized on the high seas, outside the jurisdiction of the United States. After holding the ship at this port for several days, the Treasury Department ordered her release.

The Manning was ordered to tow the craft to sea to the spot where she was taken in custody.

The Julito has been on the Coast Guard suspected list for several years. She is known to have plied out of Canadian ports and was at one time of Cuban registry.

Indications that her crew were prepared to put up a fight if necessary was disclosed by the finding of two cases of small arms ammunition in the crew's quarters.

Grand Jury Report Refused By Judge

Indianapolis, Dec. 24. — (AP) — The grand jury that has had corruption allegations under investigation, late this afternon decided that it would make no report until Monday. The grand jury earlier in the afternoon had submitted a report which Judge Collins, of the Criminal Court, refused to accept because, he said, it violated the oath which the jurors had taken not od disclose evidence which they had heard.

Despite the failure of the grand jury to report, it was evident that they decided to return no indictments and that they would probably return a report to this effect.

Policeman and Robber Engage In Gun Battle In Main Street Store

Trapped In Office of Milady Shop, Thief Opens Fire and Officer Empties Pistol; Wounded Suspect Later Arrested

A traffic policeman and a storebreaker "shot it out" in true Wild West style in the balcony of the Milady Shop, 212 East Main Street, about 5 o'clock last night. A man whom the police allege to be the storebreaker, giving his name as Charles Soloman Brown, of Brooklyn, is lying in St. Vincent's Hospital with a bullet wound just over his heart. It is probable he will die.

Brown last night denied he was the man who had engaged in a pistol duel with Officer A. E. Lindsay. He said he was shot by a negro near where he was found at Market and Bank street with a bullet hole through his chest. Officer Lindsay stated that he could identify Brown as the man he found in the balcony of the Milady store and with whom he exchanged shots.

Officer Lindsay, who was doing traffic duty at Main and Granby streets, was informed by a porter from the Milady Shop that someone was in the office. It was about time for the store to close and the office, a small room on the balcony, was in darkness when Officer Lindsay arrived. He and Jesse Friedan, proprietor of the store, ascended the narrow steps toward the office. As they neared the door Friedan struck a match, so that the two might find their way more easily. Officer Lindsay had his pistol in his hand ready for action.

As soon as the match flared up a fusillade of shots came from the office, through the doorway. Officer Lindsay returned the fire immediately. He emptied his pistol at the man who had fired four shots at Lindsay and Friedan. None of them took effect.

After the fourth shot had been fired the bandit slammed the door. Lindsay stepped aside into a secure place to reload his pistol. When he returned and opened the office door the room was empty. Gratings raised in the rear window showed that the storebreaker had made his entrance and exit there, evidently with the aid of the fire escape.

A short time later, according to Manuel Basenta, 442½ Market street, a man appeared at Market and Bank streets and raised his arms above his head, crying, "I'm shot, I'm shot. Take me to the hospital, I'm going to die." Basenta said the wounded man walked to a doorway in Saul's drug store and sat down. Patrolman T. J. Owings was called and commandeered a private

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

Routine Business Habits Deserted By Wall Street

Denizens of "Canyon of Cash" Pay Respects to Season and Celebrate Around Mammoth Christmas Tree.

New York, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Wall Street, connected in the popular mind more with the clink of gold and the chatter of stock tickers, than with more human sounds, resounded today with the chanting of Christmas carols.

Following the example of the rest of the city, denizens of the "Canyon of Cash" turned from their routine business habits to pay respects to the season. A Christmas tree, decorated with electric lights and topped with a blazing star, was laden with gifts for poor children occupied the street in front of the stock exchange.

The stock exchange, which erected the tree, closed its business schedule at noon. Then amid the chimes of Trinity Church, which ushered in the holiday season, its members joined with the crowd about the tree to distribute the gifts to the poor of the neighborhood and take part in the singing of carols.

The curb exchange also joined in the holiday spirit with a Christmas tree for poor children and added its voices to the chorus of those observing the season. At other points of the city, Times square, Madison square and the various hospitals, trees were erected, gifts distributed and carols chanted.

Following a custom established in 1919, about 5,000 employes of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., the Western Union Company and the Western Electric Company gathered in the lobby of the telephone company building for a 20-minute Christmas service. The singing attracted such a crowd from Lower Broadway that it was necessary to close temporarily the doors leading from that thoroughfare.

Charitable institutions were busy throughout the day distributing food and gifts purchased with money solicited during the past three weeks. Five thousand paper bags, filled with good things to eat left eight Salvation Army stations during the morning.

By train, boat and automobile, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children left the greater city to spend the holidays with the "old folks" and other relatives or friends in their old "home town." The Grand Central and Pennsylvania terminals were crowded to capacity throughout the afternoon.

A drizzle began to fall during the afternoon and the weather bureau predicted a rainy Christmas.

Christmas True Stories

(Associated Press)

London—Babies have been given as Christmas gifts in several hundred childless English homes. A well dressed middle-aged woman who walked excitedly into the offices of the National Home Adoption Association, exclaimed: "I want the prettiest baby boy you have! I've just had the idea of giving my husband for a Christmas box. You see he is passionately fond of children and we have never had one of our own."

Philadelphia—A judge and a jury played Santa Claus today to Arthur McDonald, of Augusta, Maine. The jury which last week convicted McDonald of stealing an automobile, collected enough for his railroad fare home and Judge Bartlett, adding $25 to the Christmas gift, suspended sentence. Investigation disclosed McDonald had a previous good record.

New York—Santa Claus is the ideal chef for the melting pot. Wiping out a dozen antagonistic racial lines, the spirit of Christmas descended on Ellis Island and the polyglot population at once was welded into a harmonious unity in celebration. A trio comprising an Arab prince, a Czecho and a Roumanian, started the entertainment program with a rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." Folk songs and Christmas carols were sung in various languages. Presents were distributed among all the island's "guests."

Stockholm—Christmas cheer in Sweden includes extra allowances of "brannvin," or Swedish brandy. The governmental liquor monopoly is allowing its customers to buy an extra liter during the holidays. This privilege is limited, however, to those whose regular allowance is less than the maximum of four liters a month.

Hollywood, Cal.—An automobile load of toys was tagged up at the Charlie Chaplin studio for Charles Spencer, Jr., and Sidney Earle, the comedian's two children whose Christmas tree has been set up at the home of William Curry, grandparent of Lita Grey, Chaplin's estranged wife, in Beverly Hills.

Chaplin spent two hours on his toyland shopping tour.

Vancouver, B. C.—Mason Williams, of San Francisco, having explained in police court that he stowed away on the Canadian government merchant marine steamer Canadian Observer, in order to eat Christmas dinner with his parents in this city, was released under a suspended sentence.

Philadelphia—Santa Claus adopted big business methods here today by assisting the John B. Stetson Company distribute $542,000 to its employes at the annual Christmas celebration.

Little Orphan Girl Writes Britain's "Christmas Carol"

By BATES RANEY

London, Christmas Morning, 1926.—(AP)—Once upon a time there was a little orphan girl who didn't have a father. Her name was Annie Lucile Fanning, and when she was 10 years old, her mother was obliged to place her in an orphan's home. Little Annie was very lonesome and often her black eyes filled with tears because she didn't have any nice home or brothers or sisters to play with.

Soon after her eleventh birthday her teacher asked her and the rest of the orphan school girls each to write a Christmas carol. So Annie wrote one she called "Little Lord Jesus," but she didn't think it was very good because she never had any musical ability—her teacher said so. But anyway she took paper and pencil and wrote:

"Little Lord Jesus was born this day thousands of years ago—
Dear little Babe, in a manger He lay, and the cows and the oxen did low—
Alleluia! Alleluia! Little Lord Jesus, our King! Hark, how the bells do ring!
And in the night when all was still and starry, heavens she'e—
Mary, the gentle Mother, sat watching the whole night long;
Now let us, our praises sing, to God, our Heavely King;
He was a Baby born on earth, loud let His praises ring!"

Little Annie sent in her carol and the music with 99 others, and what do you think? A big singing knight, Sir Walford Davies, the composer, came along and said it was the best of all and that it was "extremely beautiful," and that he was charmed with the two alleluias. The low notes of the first, he thought, were like the lowing of cattle, and the higher notes of the second, like angels.

The words and music were copyrighted and last night were broadcast in the Christmas Eve program of the Temple Church choir. The proceeds of the sale of the carol will go to the 11-year-old orphan composer, and some day she expects to marry a prince and live happily ever after.

JAPAN'S INVALID EMPEROR DIES; CROWN PRINCE ASCENDS THRONE

Ceremony Of Installing Hirohito To Imperial Office Takes Place Immediately After Yoshihito Succumbs To Long Illness

FUNERAL TO BE HELD WITHIN FEW MONTHS

Body Of Monarch Will Be Taken to Palace in Tokyo To Lie in State For at Least 50 Days While Religious Rites Are Performed

Tokio, Dec. 25.—(AP)—Yoshihito, Japan's invalid emperor, died in the early hours of this Christmas morning. Hirohito, his eldest son, who since November, 1921 had ruled the empire as regent, immediately became Japan's 124th emperor.

The ceremony of the ascension of Hirohito to imperial office took place in the main hall of the villa at Hayama in which his father had just succumbed to pneumonia after critical illness of more than two weeks. Hirohito went almost directly from the deathbed of his father to the ceremonial which proclaimed him monarch. Japanese custom so decreed.

Yoshihito yielded his reign while surrounded by all members of his family except his second son, Prince Chichibu, who is hastening home from England. The efforts of his majesty's many physicians who attended him day and night, and the unceasing devoted attendance of Empress Sadako, many times warded off death ni the emperor's last days. The devotion of his attendants and the prayers of the nation were given credit by the Japanese for the prolongation of the life of the sovereign, who since birth had suffered physical afflictions which ultimately affected his mentality.

Prince Regent Hirohito and other members of the imperial family were gathered at the monarch's bedside, in his villa at Hayama, where the emperor became critically ill of pneumonia December 9. Bronchitis which attacked his majesty several weeks previously, developed into the more serious disease a fortnight ago.

When the sovereign's illness became acute, all amusement ceased in Japan, business was halted, and the nation gave itself up to prayer. Yoshihito was beloved by his people, had been an in-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 6)

Jury Recommends Mercy in Finding McDermott Guilty

Sentencing Of Convicted Slayer Of Mellett Deferred "Until After Christmas"

Canton, Ohio, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Patrick Eugene McDermott was found guilty tonight of first degree murder for the death of Don R. Mellett, Canton publisher.

The jury of ten men and two women returned its verdict with a recommendation of mercy after deliberating but one hour.

The case was delivered into the hands of the jury just as dusk of Christmas Eve fell over the city where Mellett, the crusader-editor a few months ago launched his attack on the underworld and its alleged police protection. From the time Mellett was shot down at his garage door in a fusillade of shots discharged from ambush early on the morning of July 16, there has been one predominant theory—that he was slain by the underworld.

McDermott, the State charged, was the underworld's hireling picked to "do the job."

When the verdict was read in the court of Judge E. W. Diehl at 5:55 p. m. today, McDermott appeared calm and composed, although the sealed envelope might have dispatched him to the electric chair.

Defense counsel did not reveal its plan for appeal of the case, but frequently throughout the trial, Attorney E. L. Mills had testimony read into the record out of the jury's hearing for the purpose of appealing on error if an unsatisfactory verdict was returned. He did not comment on the verdict tonight.

Sentence was deferred by Judge Diehl "uhtil after Christmas." The cases of Ben Rudner and Louis Mazer, co-defendants with McDermott, will be in the hands of Henry W. Harter, county prosecutor-elect who assisted Prosecutor C. B. McClintock in the trial of McDermott. Prosecution of Rudner and Mazer will be pushed and one or the probably will be brought to trial February, Harter announced.

In final ment to the jury today, State defense counsel repeated and d the charges that Rudner and er employed McMellett to kill editor.

Prosecutor tock declared that the m rs have not been fou and her Durand, a defense attorney, retaliated with a state t that Steve Kashcholk, State ar witness, who claimed he would arrested within six months was in to join the alleged plot, and cha with the murder of Mellett.

Succeeds to Throne



EMPEROR HIROHITO

ABSENCE OF CAROL FROM FRENCH HOME GOES UNEXPLAINED

Lone Servant Refuses To Confirm Belief Master Is On Way to Bucharest

Paris, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Carol, former crown prince of Rumania, has been absent from his home in Neuilly, a suburb of Paris, for more than 30 hours. Although a lone servant at his villa said this evening, "My master may return tonight," diplomatic circles aver that the prince is on the way to Bucharest to resume the prerogatives of the Hohenzollern dynasty, which he renounced some months ago. Neighbors of "Mr. Cariman"—as he is known in Neuilly—believe that he has just advanced his Christmas celebration.

Reports current in Neuilly are that Carol's private secretary boarded an express going in the direction of Bucharest Thursday night. Others say that Carol left in an automobile Thursday afternoon in time to catch the express leaving Paris Thursday night. It also is reported that Carol boarded the express at the first stop after leaving Paris, as he did not want to enter the train at the Paris terminal.

Yet, there are friends of Carol who say he was seen in Montmarire resorts early this morning, dancing to syncopated music, but that Mme. Magda Lupescu, who came with him to France from Rumania and who has been his constant companion, was not with him.

These friends are certain that the prince has separated from Mme. Lupescu, and that she now is living about a mile from his villa. They describe the demeanor of Carol for the past three months as that of a man who has seen a great light, and that he appears desirous of having the public at large, especially the people of Rumania, forget the past.

King Ferdinand, although he agreed to the renunciation of Carol at the time, now is anxious that he come back to Rumania.

One story reaching here is that when the king made his wish known, Premier Averescu and the members of the government refused, Minister of Interior Goga saying to the king, "I will have him shot if he returns."

The ailing king, with a shadow of a smile, is reported to have replied, "Be careful he doesn't have you shot."

If Carol does return to Rumania, it will mean the overthrow of Premier Averescu and his regime, and the eclipse of former Premier Bratiano, long a power in Rumanian affairs.

COOLIDGE ADAMANT

Refuses to Sanction Building Of Three Cruisers

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Despite the efforts of some congressional leaders to get him to change his views, President Coolidge still holds to the opinion it would be unwise to make appropriations at this time for the three light cruisers already authorized by Congress.

At the White House today it was disclosed that the President looks on the Butler bill, which would authorize construction of 10 such craft, as a substitute for the three cruiser authorization now in effect.

Unless Congress grants a time extension, the cruisers already authorized must be under construction before next July 1. It was pointed out at the White House that the Butler bill now on the House calender sets no time limit for the beginning of construction.

While members of the House naval committee, which approved the Butler Bill, are willing to wait until later for funds to start work on at least some of the 10 cruisers, most of them have been insisting that money should be appropriated at this session for the three-cruiser program.

GOULD ROW SETTLED

New York, Dec. 24.—Fifty heirs of Jay Gould—his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren — announced through counsel today that in the interest of family harmony they had agreed to a compromise settlement of the bitter litigation over the estate, which amounted to $82,000,000 when its founder died in 1892.

BANKS TO LEND MONEY ON WAR BONUS AWARDS AFTER NEW YEAR

Virginia and Carolina Veterans Can Obtain Cash Benefit From Certificates, Authorized Under 1924 Compensation Act

ELIGIBLES HAVE YEAR TO DEMAND INSURANCE

Value Of Policies Increase Materially Each Twelve Months; Way in Which Trust Companies Handle Collateral Explained

By K. FOSTER MURRAY

Washington, Dec. 24.—Virginia and Carolina veterans of the World War, like their comrades in the rest of the States, will be able after January 1 to benefit immediately, if they chose, from the loan value of the insurance which they carry as a result of the adjusted compensation act of 1924.

Under the provisions of that law, sometimes called a bonus act, Virginia veterans numbering 50,638 and North Carolina veterans numbering 54,304 are now insured by the Government for an aggregate amount of $58,863,619 and $54,615,979 respectively. This adjusted compensation insurance held by veterans of the two States will possess at the beginning of the New Year a total loan value of $4,232,712 for Virginians and $3,991,379 for North Carolinians.

Another way of putting this fact is that the beneficiaries of the insurance, if they have obtained or shall later obtain certificates under the adjusted compensation statute, may go to banks or trust companies and borrow on their own notes, with the certificates as security, the loan value of the certificates at the date the loan is sought.

Year To Apply

While there are thousands of veterans in the two States who have not up to the present time made application for this compensation, Congress has provided that all who are eligible shall have another full year's leeway to apply—that is, up to and including December 31, 1927.

In the nation as a whole, about 3,000,000 World War ex-service men will have added to their individual assets on New Year's Day negotiable Government securities whereon they may borrow more than $215,000,000 in cash.

Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, director of the Veterans' Bureau, is making all possible preparations for the situation which will arise after January first. He is particularly anxious that it should be known that the bureau will not itself make loans to veterans and that all seekers for loans must apply to banks or trust companies and not to the bureau or any of its agencies.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

ENGINEER BLAMED FOR COLLISION OF PASSENGER TRAINS

Lives Of 20 Snuffed Out When Northbound Ponce de Leon Crashes Into Royal Palm Limited, Crack Southern Railway Flyers

STORIES OF DISASTER TOLD BY SURVIVORS

Full Extent of Injuries of More Than 30 Persons Hurt in Crash Undetermined More Than 24 Hours After Catastrophe

Rockmart, Ga., Dec. 24.—(AP)—Encased in simple pine coffins, the bodies of 12 of the 20 victims of last night's head-on collision of two crack Southern Railway fliers were borne from the temporary morgue to the little station here today for shipment to Atlanta, where they will await arrival of relatives. Four bodies had been sent to Atlanta shortly after the wreck, while two others were in Rome, Ga., and one at Cedartown. Another body mangled beyond recognition was found tonight.

Robert M. Pearce, engineer of Train No. 2, the Ponce de Leon, loaded with homeward bound Christmas vacationists from Florida, which crashed into Train No. 101, the Royal Palm, southbound from Chicago, died in a Rome hospital this afternoon. A statement from the Chief Dispatcher's office at Atlanta, said the accident "was apparently caused by the engineer" of the Ponce de Leon "overlooking the order to make the siding at the south end of the passing track at Rockmart for No. 101.

Pearce, a road foreman, or traveling engineer, had relieved S. J. Keith, the regular engineer, 12 miles from the scene of the wreck, but the official statement emphasized that he had complete authority for it and that both he and H. E. Moss, the fireman, who also was killed, understood the orders.

Thirty In Hospitals

Pearce was conscious until half an hour before his death, advices from the hospital in Rome said, but whether he made any statement could not be learned. He was badly mangled and in severe pain when taken to the hospital and his left arm and leg were to have been amputated.

The full extent of the injuries of more than 30 passengers in hospitals has not been determined but it was believed most of the injuries were of a minor nature.

The Royal Palm was standing on the main track awaiting the passing of the northbound train on the siding when the accident occurred.

Rescue work, impeded by the disorder that followed the crash and by a driving rain, lagged and it was several hours before all the dead and injured had been removed from the tangled debris of the Ponce de Leon dining car and day coach, in which most of the victims were trapped. The day coach for white passengers, the second car from the engine, was telescoped into the diner immediately behind.

Negro Waiter Is Hero

Screams of women, pinned beneath the wreckage, were mingled with the hoarse shouts of men and the prayers of a negro waiter when he was released, uninjured from the dining car. He had refused aid until the white passengers had been cared for.

One woman caught beneath a torn beam and badly mangled, directed rescue workers to her two children, a boy 7 years old and a girl 8. Both were brought out dead and the mother was rushed to an Atlanta hospital, where she was still mumbling about them as she went under an anesthetic for an operation. She was Mrs. Georgia Hardy, en route from Miami to Toronto, Ont., for the holidays.

F. W. Swann, of Boulder, Ga., one of those in the diner at the time of the crash, gave a vivid scene of the crash. "I had just gone into the dining car," he said, "and hadn't gotten the meal I ordered. I felt the train jar when the brakes went on and was thrown against a table across the aisle. It was awful in the car—no lights, women and children and men screaming and everybody fighting to get out with nobody able to move."

Describes Disaster

"We were rushing along," said A. S. Mier, of Detroit, "and I had just commented on the queer jolting we were getting when the crash came. The lights went out and I found myself thrown to the floor, through which the trucks seemed to have risen. It was terrible. Screams came from all sides and the smell of escaping steam made some of them think the car was on fire. It seemed hours that we were there, but I suppose it was not more than 15 minutes. Too much time was wasted trying to break in the doors, which were jammed. Eventually we were all lifted through the windows, broken by the smash."

A little frame one-story office building, the front of which is used for an insurance office and the back for an undertaking establishment, was converted into a temporary morgue and into it the survivors anxiously sought relatives and friends.

All of the dead had been identified except one woman when the bodies were sent to Atlanta.

Traffic Resumed

Traffic over the line was resumed this morning, trains using the passing sidetrack until the main line was cleared.

While the clearing up of the wreckage was still in progress word was received that two Interstate Commerce Commission inspectors had been ordered to conduct an inquiry, the commission's bureau of safety investigating every wreck where fatalities occur.

H. W. Miller, vice president of the Southern Railway Company in charge of operations, issued a statement at Washington in which he said the wreck "was due to a human failure or an

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

Soft-Hearted Beggar Is Praised By Judge

New York, Dec 25—(AP)—Richard Smith, who panhandled for Santa Claus, although his own stomach was crying for food, won the commendation of a magistrate today when he was arraigned for disorderly conduct.

Smith, an Englishman, asked a policeman on 14th Street for a dime with which to buy coffee. The policeman, imbued with the holiday spirit, complied and then was amazed to see the man drop the coin in a Salvation Army kettle.

A few minutes later Smith came up to the same policeman and asked him for another dime. The policeman arrested him.

"Your honor," Smith said when he was arraigned. "I was broke and I needed a cup of coffee. After the officer gave me the dime I saw the Salvation Army pot and I thought they were obtaining money for people who are worse off than I am. I am a ship fireman and my home is in Liverpool, England. I will return home if you give me the opportunity."

"You are to be commended," the magistrate said. "We need men such as you in America, and I hope you remain here. You are honorably discharged."

NICARAGUA TO ASK FOR MATERIAL AID IN QUELLING REVOLT

Blockade Against Alleged Mexican Arms Traffic With Rebels To Be Sought

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Arrival in Washington next month of Dr. Alexondro Cesar as minister or personal representative of President Diaz, of Nicaragua, probably will bring sharply to the front the question of steps to assist the Managua government to maintain itself against the liberal faction headed by former Vice President Sacasa.

Thus far the Washington administration has avoided committing itself to anything more than diplomatic recognition of the Diaz government and the extension of its good offices to settle the Nicaraguan dispute.

Officials have been reticent as to any plans that may have been considered for giving the Diaz regime material aid, hoping that an amicable adjustment would be brought about by the two political factions themselves or through the friendly assistance of Minister Eberhardt at Managua. With renewed fighting reported and American bluejackets ashore to protect Amer-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

Bodies of Mother and Eight Children Found in Dugout

Husband Stabs Self With Pocket Knife When Questioned By Authorities

Farwell, Texas, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Dazed and delirious after stabbing himself three times, George J. Hassell, 45, was unable tonight to give police an explanation of the deaths of his wife and her eight children, whose bodies were found today in a dugout on their farm, three miles from here.

As Hassell was being questioned by officers he stabbed himself with a pocketknife. He was brought to a hospital here, and tonight doctors reported that he was dying. Despite this fact a charge of murder was filed against him.

Police were called to the farm by anonymous reports that Hassell had been acting strangely and that his family, whom he announced several days ago were visiting in Oklahoma, could not be located.

After Hassell stabbed himself, a search of the farm revealed the bodies in the dugout, which was caved in. A blood-covered axe was found nearby. The bodies had been buried about three weeks, authorities believe.

The children, who were Hassell's stepchildren, ranged in age from 2 to 21. The youngest child apparently had been choked to death, and the others had been slain with an axe.

Bodies of the mother and the three younger children had been placed in one corner of the cave. The oldest son was in a sitting posture in another corner. The bodies of the other children had been laid with considerable care between the son and the other group.

The dead besides the mother are: Alton, 21; Virgil, 18; Maude, 14; Russell, 12; David, 7; John, 6; Mamie, 4, and Sammie, 2.

Hassell's brother died two years ago and Hassell married the brother's widow, assuming the care of the eight children. He went from Farwell to Blair, Okla., shortly after the marriage, but returned here.

Authorities are unable to assign a motive for the slayings. Neighbors say that about a month ago, Hassell had complained that his wife had asked him to refrain from using liquor. He declared at the time, it is said, that he was fond of the children and was going to "mend his ways."

Bank officials became interested in the condition of the family when Hassell deposited $1,500 from the sale of property on his farm. This was about a week after the family disappeared. He is said to have remarked at that time that he intended to join them in Oklahoma.

'STRANGER' SOUGHT IN WOMAN'S DEATH

Authorities Unwilling to Accept Either Suicide Or Murder Theory

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 24.—(AP)—A mysterious stranger was sought tonight in an effort to solve the death of Mrs. John Berard, 41, wife of the Burlington Railroad passenger agent here, whose body, with a shirt twisted around her neck, was found wedged between the furnace and wall in the basement of her home.

County authorities said they are not ready to accept a suicide theory nor can they discard suspicions of murder.

The mysterious stranger angle was given by Robert Moore, railroad fireman and roomer at the Berard home. Moore said as he left about 2:30 p. m. yesterday he noticed Mrs. Berard was in the parlor, talking to a man whom she introduced as "Mr. Williams." The man, Moore said, was rather poorly dressed and appeared between 30 and 40 years old.

Members of the Berard family could shed no light on the stranger's identity.

To support a sucide theory is the recent nervous illness of Mrs. Berard.

"She had once said she wished she were dead," Mr. Berard said, "but her religious convictions were too deep to permit her to end her life."

The body was discovered by the husband when he came home from work at 5:30 yesterday afternoon. The house was in perfect order, Mr. Berard said. There were no bruises on the body, an examining physician reported.

Mr. Berard advanced the theory that an assailant may have come to the house to answer a room-for-rent sign.

A daughter, Evelyn, 19, a student nurse, said she had found evidence in the basement that the assailant had attempted to stuff the body into the furnace.